

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

eVenus Pharmaceuticals Labs, Inc.,
et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.

2:23-cv-02367 (MCA) (JRA)

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING
ORDER**

THIS MATTER having come before the Court for a scheduling conference pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on September 7, 2023, and the parties' joint letter dated September 14, 2023 (ECF No. 56), and for good cause shown:

IT IS on this 18th day of September 2023, ORDERED THAT:

I. DISCLOSURES

1. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 disclosures are to be exchanged no later than **September 22, 2023**.

II. DISCOVERY

2. Fact discovery is to remain open through **November 10, 2023**. No fact discovery is to be issued or engaged in beyond that date, except upon application and for good cause shown.

3. The parties shall substantially complete document production by **October 27, 2023**.

4. The parties may, if not already served, serve interrogatories (limited to twenty-five (25) single questions) and requests for production of documents on or before **September 22, 2023**, to be responded to within thirty (30) days of receipt.

5. Depositions of fact witnesses and individuals who will give lay opinion testimony based on particular competence in an area are to be completed by

November 10, 2023. No objections to questions posed at depositions shall be made other than as to lack of foundation, form, or privilege. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(d)(3)(A). No instruction not to answer shall be given unless a privilege is implicated.

6. Plaintiff shall serve its Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 3.1 (limited to a total of six claims across both patents) on or before **September 15, 2023**.

7. Defendants shall serve its Non-Infringement Contentions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 3.2A on or before **October 13, 2023**.

8. Defendants shall serve its Invalidity Contentions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 3.3 on or before **October 13, 2023**.

9. Plaintiff shall serve its Responses to Invalidity Contentions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 3.4A on or before **October 23, 2023**.

10. The parties shall exchange proposed claim terms for construction pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.1(a), if any, on or before **October 27, 2023**. Thereafter, the parties shall meet and confer to narrow the issues in dispute.

11. The parties shall exchange preliminary proposed constructions and identification of extrinsic evidence pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.2(a)–(b), if any, on or before **November 1, 2023**. Thereafter, the parties shall meet and confer to narrow the issues in dispute.

12. The parties shall exchange identifications of all intrinsic and extrinsic evidence they intend to rely upon in opposing any proposed claim construction, pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.2(c), if any, on or before **November 8, 2023**. The parties shall thereafter meet and confer to narrow the issues in dispute.

13. The parties shall file a Joint Claim Construction and Prehearing Statement pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.3, if any, on or before **November 10, 2023**.

14. The parties shall file and serve their opening *Markman* submissions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.5(a), if any, on or before **December 6, 2023**.

15. The parties shall complete expert discovery pertaining to *Markman* issues pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.5(b), if any, on or before **December 13, 2023**.

16. The parties shall file and serve their responding *Markman* submissions pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.5(c), if any, on or before **January 3, 2024**.

17. The parties shall submit to the Court a proposed schedule for a *Markman* hearing pursuant to L. Pat. R. 4.6, if any, on or before **January 3, 2024**.

18. Counsel shall confer in a good faith attempt to informally resolve any and all discovery or case management disputes **before** seeking the Court's intervention. See L. Civ. R. 37.1(a)(1); see also L. Civ. R. 16.1(f)(1). Any dispute not resolved shall be brought to the Court's attention by letter or telephone conference after the parties' good faith attempt to resolve the dispute has failed. Counsel shall advise the Court of the specific efforts that were made to resolve the dispute before contacting the Court. **No discovery motion shall be made without prior leave of Court.**

III. DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY ORDERS

19. Any proposed Discovery Confidentiality Order agreed to by the parties must strictly comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) and L. Civ. R. 5.3. See also *Glenmede Trust Co. v. Thompson*, 56 F.3d 476 (3d Cir. 1995); *Pansy v. Borough of Stroudsburg*, 23 F.3d 772 (3d Cir. 1994). The parties are advised that a sample form of Discovery Confidentiality Order is contained in Appendix S to the Local Civil Rules. The parties shall jointly submit a proposed Discovery Confidentiality Order by **September 22, 2023**.

IV. FUTURE CONFERENCES

20. There shall be a telephonic status conference before the undersigned on **November 6, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.** The parties shall file one joint concise status letter no later than three business days in advance of the conference. Dial-in information for the conference is (888) 684-8852, access code 1364268#.

21. The Court may from time to time schedule further conferences as may be required, either *sua sponte* or at the request of a party.

22. Counsel should be prepared to discuss settlement at every conference. The senior attorney in charge of the case must attend all settlement conferences and client(s) with full settlement authority must attend unless excused by the Court. In cases involving insurance companies and other corporate or business entities, it is expected that the executive who will make the final decision on the settlement will be the person available for the conference. Confidential settlement letters shall be sent to **JRA_orders@njd.uscourts.gov** at least three business days prior to the conference.

23. Since all dates set forth herein are established with the assistance and knowledge of counsel, there will be no extensions except for good cause shown and by leave of Court, even with consent of all counsel.

24. A copy of every pleading, document, or written communication with the Court shall be served on all other parties to the action or may be disregarded by the Court.

V. MOTIONS

25. **No motions are to be filed without prior written permission from this Court, excepting motions in lieu of Answer under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12.** These prerequisites must be met before any motions are filed and the motions will be returned if not met. All calendar or dispositive motions, if permitted, shall comply with L. Civ. R. 7.1(b) and other applicable local and federal rules.

26. Any request for leave to file a motion to add new parties or amend pleadings, whether by amended or third-party complaint, must be filed not later than **December 22, 2023**. Before seeking Court leave to file a motion to amend a pleading, a party shall circulate the proposed amended pleading among all parties in an effort to obtain consent to the amendment. Any request for leave of the Court to file a motion to amend shall contain a redlined version of the proposed amended pleading as an exhibit.

27. All dispositive motions must first be subject to a dispositive motion pre-hearing. Discovery generally must be completed prior to the filing of a dispositive motion.

VI. EXPERTS

28. All affirmative expert reports shall be delivered by **December 1, 2023**. Any such report shall comport with the form and content requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

29. All rebuttal expert reports shall be delivered by **December 22, 2023**. Any such report shall comport with the form and content requirements referenced above. Plaintiff's rebuttal expert reports shall include any disclosure regarding secondary considerations.

30. All reply expert reports (including, but not limited to, Defendants' response regarding secondary considerations) shall be delivered by **January 8, 2024**. Any such report shall comport with the form and content requirements referenced above.

31. No expert shall testify at trial as to any opinions or base those opinions on facts not substantially disclosed in his report.

32. Expert discovery, including the depositions of any expert witnesses, shall be completed on or before **January 15, 2024**.

VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

33. A final pretrial conference shall be conducted pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(e) **at a time and date to be assigned**.

34. All counsel are directed to assemble at the office of Plaintiff's counsel not later than ten (10) days before the final pretrial conference to prepare the Final Pretrial Order in compliance with the form and content requirements of the Court. Plaintiff's counsel shall prepare the Final Pretrial Order and shall submit it to all other counsel for approval before submitting it to the Court.

35. The original of the Final Pretrial Order shall be delivered to Chambers in hard copy not later than **three full business days** before the final pretrial conference. All counsel are responsible for the timely submission of the Final Pretrial Order.

36. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS ORDER MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) and 37.**


JOSE R. ALMONTE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Original: Clerk of the Court
cc: Hon. Madeline Cox Arleo, U.S.D.J.
All Parties